

which resulted in several of our marines being killed. The French clamoured, and as General Joffre put it in a message to our War Office, "emphatically insisted" that we should send a couple of divisions immediately to Salonika. Prompt action was essential to dispel this new threat. We obviously could take no risk, for the situation, unless effectively handled, might land the Allies in one of the worst disasters of the whole War.

The War Cabinet felt that the Greek menace must be dealt with firmly and promptly before the Central

Powers could disentangle their troops

Policy of from the struggle with the remnants of *Government* Roumanian Army which were, with

the help of a few Russian divisions, still putting up a tenacious resistance in Moldavia, and before the Greek King could mass a sufficient force in the neighbourhood of Larissa to enable him to deliver an effective blow on the Allied left.

The French Government and their military advisers were in a state of panic about the Salonika force. They were convinced that the enemy attack was imminent.

General Sarrail was all for military action to clear the Greeks out of Thessaly. The French Staff

continued to press us for a reinforcement of two divisions without delay. We pointed out that the force already there was many thousands below its

strength, because the necessary sea
transport was not
forthcoming, either here or in France,
If ships
could be found anywhere and anyhow, let
them be
used to carry drafts and ammunition to fill
up the
divisions and equip the batteries.
Meanwhile we
advised that it would be better to
anticipate the
Constantine manoeuvre by forcing the
issue with
that potential antagonist before his
potential allies